

WHAT'S NEW STARTING JULY 1, 2017

Contracts Awarded by Service Area

Contracts will be awarded within DHS Service Areas, not "statewide" as they were in the past. Contractors will be responsible for serving the children in the Service Area where they are located, while some flexibility will be exercised to serve children from adjoining or nearby communities.

Guaranteed Payments

Purchasing of foster group care beds with guaranteed payments regardless of use.

No Reject/No Eject Referrals

Referrals will operate under a no reject/no eject basis, while recognizing that DHS and Juvenile Court Services (JCS) may approve exceptions in unique situations.

Maintaining Connections

Enhanced focus on maintaining family and community connections via required face-to-face visits with family members.

One Caseworker Model

Contractors will follow a One Caseworker model to coordinate the delivery of the child's service plan, updates, reporting, and reintegration. The One Caseworker will be the single point of contact for the child, the child's family, the referring worker, or other persons in the child's positive support system.

Education Specialist

For each child, contractors will assign an Education Specialist who will be directly responsible for a child's education and related planning, services, and needs; in all cases when possible, a child will be maintained in their school of origin.

Crisis Intervention Planning

Contractors will develop crisis intervention plans that apply to their overall operations and to specific and individual child needs. Both plans are intended to provide a framework to address overall practice and meet individuals' needs to reduce or eliminate critical incidents that might lead to injury, elopement, police calls, or ejections from the program.

Reintegration Planning

Reintegration planning, preparing a child for their next step after leaving the placement will begin at the time of admission and become part of each child's service plan.

Enhanced Collaboration with Stakeholders

Enhanced collaboration with other child welfare stakeholders will promote and assure continuity of care from when the child enters the placement, during the stay of care, and through post-placement to assure ongoing supports needed for success after discharge.

WHAT STAYS THE SAME

- Ongoing focus on child safety, permanence, and well-being, keeping in alignment with the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) federal expectations.
- Individual service contracts for each of the three services (while seeking innovative approaches toward integrating services and creating a system of care for children who require emergency or out-of-home placements.)
- Provision for a safe, structured, and stable living environment for foster care children unable to live in a family situation due to social or emotional needs.
- Facilitating child development and the acquisition of age-appropriate life skills.
- Help each child develop and maintain relationships with their family and community and ensuring each child stays connected to their kin, culture, and community.
- Supporting a child's education and ensuring the child continues to attend the child's school of origin whenever possible.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Performance measures will provide fiscal incentives for successful outcomes. The following performance measures determine eligibility for performance incentive payments. The Gold and Silver Standards are mutually exclusive and both cannot be earned for the same performance measure during the same measurement period. Performance measures shall be measured, earned, and paid separately by DHS Service Area.

Performance Measure 1 – Length of Stay

In alignment with the DHS's permanency goals, contractors shall support a child to develop the skills necessary to return home or to a lower level of care. Accordingly, discharge from FGCS will be monitored and a contractor may earn additional payments.

- Gold Standard (payment of an additional 2.5% of the measurement quarter's invoiced amount) – ≥ 95% of children entering FGCS in the measurement quarter will be discharged within 180 days of entering FGCS.
- Silver Standard (payment of an additional 1.5% of the measurement quarter's invoiced amount) – ≥ 90% but less than 95% of children entering FGCS in the measurement quarter will be discharged within 180 days of entering FGCS.

Performance Measure 2 – Return to Group Care for Children in Need of Assistance

Contractors shall work to help a child return home or to a lower level of care. The best outcomes for most children will include a future where they do not return to FGCS after discharge. Accordingly, discharge from and return to FGCS will be

monitored and the contractor may earn additional payment based on low levels of return to FGCS among CINA youth. DHS will be responsible for determining who is re-admitted to FGCS.

- Gold Standard (payment of an additional 2.5% of the measurement quarter's invoiced amount) – $\geq 93\%$ of CINA children discharged from FGCS in the measurement quarter will not return to FGCS within 365 days.
- Silver Standard (payment of an additional 1.5% of the measurement quarter's invoiced amount) – $\geq 90\%$ but less than 93% of CINA children discharged from FGCS in the measurement quarter will not return to FGCS within 365 days.

Performance Measure 3 – Recidivism of Children Adjudicated for Committing a Delinquent Act

The best outcomes for children adjudicated for having committed a delinquent act will include a future where they are not charged with a crime after discharge from FGCS. Discharge from FGCS and criminal activity will be monitored and the contractor may earn additional payment based on low levels of recidivism of former FGCS children adjudicated for committing a delinquent act.

- Gold Standard (payment of an additional 2.5% of the measurement quarter's invoiced amount) – $\geq 75\%$ of children adjudicated for having committed a delinquent act who are discharged from FGCS in the measurement quarter will not be charged with a simple misdemeanor or higher charge within 365 days of discharge.
- Silver Standard (payment of an additional 1.5% of the measurement quarter's invoiced amount) – $\geq 60\%$ but less than 75% of children adjudicated for having committed a delinquent act who are discharged from FGCS in the measurement quarter will not be charged with a simple misdemeanor or higher charge within 365 days of discharge.

Performance Measure 4 – Discharge to a Family-Like Setting

Keeping with DHS's focus on permanency goals and a family-centered model of practice, contractors shall help a child develop skills necessary to return to a family-like setting. Discharge from FGCS will be monitored and contractors may earn additional payments.

- Gold Standard (payment of an additional 2.5% of the measurement quarter's invoiced amount) – $\geq 75\%$ of children discharged from FGCS in the measurement quarter will be discharged to a family-like setting.
- Silver Standard (payment of an additional 1.5% of the measurement quarter's invoiced amount) – $\geq 70\%$ but less than 75% of children discharged from FGCS in the measurement quarter will be discharged to a family-like setting.